

Honey Bee Hive Checks & Inspections

- March 1st
 - What a beekeeper checks for today, on March 1st
 - What you will see and might see in a hive on March 1st
- Purposes of hive checks
 - Purposes and Importance
 - Why do hive checks? When not to do hive checks.
 - What to never do during a hive check (if you can avoid it)
 - Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter – How long will it take?
- Pre-Check
 - Notes & Photos from last check
 - Clean clothes, tools, breath and beekeeper
 - Specific tools, gear or offerings for the hive
- Tools
 - Hive tool(s), Vail, Gloves, Smoker & Fuel, Stand for Supers, Frame holder
 - Knife, Wall Paper Scraper, Duct Tape, Sharpie Pen, Level

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- Hive check steps
 - Take your time – Allow 30 minutes start to finish
 - Pre-check: hive outside and grounds, entrances
 - What are the bees doing? Why?
 - Smoke – Wait 6 minutes
 - Remove hive covers
 - Checking Hive Body Supers and Frames
 - Start at the wall with the least number of bees and/or with a gap to the wall
 - Move super to get to super below
 - Safe, stable, towards sun if possible for incoming foragers
 - Check bottom board
 - Check hive platform
 - Reassemble and rebuild the hive
 - Closing the hive

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- Photo Examples

- Good – Leave alone, try not to disturb
- Good – But needs some help or adjustment
- Good – But will need to be rechecked in X-days
- Bad – But they will or may correct it and recheck in X-Days
- Bad – Adjust now and recheck in X-Days
- Bad – Get help

